



A False Step

Sweet! Thou hast trod on a heart;
 Pass! There's a world full of men;
 And women as fair as thou art.
 Must do such things now and then.

Thou only hast stepped unaware,
 (Malice not one can impute),
 And why should a heart have been
 there,
 In the way of a fair woman's foot?

It was not a stone that could trip,
 Nor was it a thorn that could rend;
 Put up thy proud under-lip!
 'Twas merely the heart of a friend.

And yet, peradventure, one day,
 Thou, sitting alone at the glass,
 Remarking the bloom gone away,
 Where the smile in its dimplement
 was.

And seeking around thee in vain,
 From hundreds who flattered be-
 fore,
 Such a word as "Oh, not in the main,
 Do I hold thee less precious, but
 more."

Thou wilt sigh, very like, on thy
 part;
 "Of all I have known, or can
 know,
 I wish I had only that Heart
 I trod upon ages ago!"
 —By Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Among the kindnesses some of our readers do me, is that of occasionally sending favorite poems, with the request that they appear in the Home Department. In the issue of February 21 is one of these poems, clipped from some publication, and signed "Larona Miller," which is evidently not the name of the author, as several friends have written me, saying that the author of the poem, which is an old one, is Susan Coolidge. The poem is certainly fine enough to tempt one to covet the honor of being its author, and I am glad to give the name of the real author, at the same time thanking our friends for supplying it. I do not know what paper furnished the clipping to our reader who sent it to me.

"A Good Position"

On leaving school, or attaining an age at which they consider themselves old enough to take up some responsible work, many girls are busy looking for "a position." The trouble is that, in many cases, they overlook a very important work that lies right at their hand. If these girls would try taking the mother's position in the household for a while, doing the almost endless tasks that tax her strength, whether well or ill, they would find a call for all their executive ability and much intelligent labor. The returns would pay big in the increased happiness of the relieved mother, and the additional comfort of the whole family, including themselves. Few girls realize the strain under which the loving, conscientious mother of a family is constantly kept, or the multitude of tasks that lie always at her hand. If the daughters would share the burdens, working side by side with the too often "family drudge," and

at the same time insist that mother should keep young and rested by sharing their pleasures with them, there would be many happier homes and more rested, care-free mothers. The girls are not always to blame for their seeming indifference to the comfort and welfare of the mother, for too many women refuse to let the girls help them, saying it is more bother to have them about than to do the work alone; but it is a mother's duty to see that her daughters are fitted to meet intelligently the cares of life that will surely fall to them. Many girls would gladly do the tasks, and share their pretty clothes, as well as their pleasures with the mother, if the thought had ever occurred to them to do so; but it is never suggested that they should and they get the idea that hard work and shabby clothing is mother's "normal condition," and their carelessness arises more often than not in unthoughtfulness rather than selfish indifference.

If all members of the family would make it a rule to breakfast at the same time, the work would be much easier for the housekeeper, and the breakfast more satisfactory to the eaters. Few people like warmed-over dishes, or to make a meal of the left-overs from others.

After You Are Married

Women are beginning to realize that it will require a little more tact and diplomacy to hold the husband's love and admiration after marriage than it did to win them before. It is true that, after marriage when one has to live in the close relationship of husband and wife, the woman can not be expected to be always as carefully dressed as when the visiting was only occasional; but she should not allow herself to degenerate into: dowdy or slovenly by wearing only worn out garments, and bedraggled skirts. Every day garments can at least be neatly mended and clean, with no loose or lacking fastenings or frayed edges. The hair can always be neatly combed, and some pretty neckwear be worn. Pretty clothes are not all that is necessary, but manners and actions should be looked after just as scrupulously as before marriage. Men are very quick to notice these things, and it will not do for the wife to allow her appearance to compare unfavorably with that of other women whom the husband meets. Men are apt to follow the wife's example in such matters, too, and show an increasing disregard for their own neat appearance if the wife becomes negligent of her looks. A slovenly man is just as objectionable as a slovenly woman, and adds just as much to the untidy looks of the home; but it is the custom to "blame it onto the woman," and the only thing to be done is for the woman to take as much pride in her own neatness as the girl did. One of the best aids to this is plenty of looking-glasses, and a generous looking into them at all hours of the day. We can only thus "see ourselves as others see us."

"Spring Winds"

Spring winds mean more than reviving vegetation, and the stormy month of March is full of suggestions for the busy housewife. There is still time to look over things and plan, and to be well prepared be-

forehand for the coming cleaning-up is to lighten the work very materially. In the matter of floor covering, if you must get a new carpet or rug, try to get the best for the money. Brussels and other like carpeting wear well, but are hard to sweep and heavy to lift or clean. Ingrains and three-ply are quite cheap, easily kept clean, reversible, and light for handling. A good ingrain will wear many years and look well as long as there is a piece of it left.

In selecting a carpet, either a very light or a very dark color is to be avoided; of the two, the lighter one looks the cleaner. Get a small design; geometric figures, arabesques and conventionalized floral designs, especially if of two-tone color, seem the most satisfactory. Select colors that harmonize with the rest of the furnishing. The floor covering must be the background of the home.

If the floors are rough or broad boards, an all-over carpet is best. Some use matting to cover an ugly floor, with rugs spread about, but where there is much walking about, or moving furniture, the matting gets worn quickly. Tapestry fillers come in all colors, of one tone, and are agreeable to the eyes. A paper, or light straw or hay lining under the carpet makes it much pleasanter to walk on, and saves the carpet. Borders on carpets contract the space, if the room is small or narrow, and should be avoided.

If a bare floor is preferred, have the boards well scraped and have a carpenter smooth uneven surfaces, fill all wide cracks with putty or plaster of paris, and then have it stained. Stains come ready for use, or can be prepared at home. After staining and letting get thoroughly dry, a stained floor may be given two coats of varnish, which will last a year. Staining and varnishing do not obliterate the grain of the wood.

Wedding Superstitions

"Married in May, and repent for aye."

It is a bad omen to break a dish on one's wedding day.

Saturday is an especially unlucky day to be married on.

A rainy wedding day foretells sorrow for the bride.

Snow on the wedding day foretells a happy married life.

Some Timely Recipes

Split Pea Soup—Pick and wash one-half pint of dried peas; put them into a sauce pan with two quarts of cold water, one small carrot, one onion, three leeks, a stalk of celery, and half a pound of salt fat pork, and a little pepper. Set over a slow fire and let simmer for four hours. Take out the pork and press the rest through a colander, and return to the fire, bring to a boil and serve with croutons. If preferred the pork may be omitted, and just before serving the puree, butter the size of an egg may be stirred into it.

Croutons—Cut stale bread in one-third inch slices and remove the crusts; spread thinly and evenly with butter, then cut in one-third inch cubes; put in a pan and bake until delicately browned, turning frequently that they may brown evenly. These are sometimes called Dutch crusts, and are excellent accompaniments for soups.

Cream Sauce—Cream, or white sauces are made with thin cream or rich milk thickened and seasoned. A

tablespoonful of flour to one pint of milk is about the right proportion. Have your sauce very hot, add a lump of butter about as large as a walnut, and serve the sauce with asparagus, beans, celery, potatoes and other vegetables. This white sauce is especially nice for left-over meats, vegetables and poultry, as they can be re-heated in it without cooking. Cold meats should never be re-cooked.

Cream Salsify—Clean and cut in slices a few roots of salsify and boil in a very little salted water until tender, drain, and cover with enough milk to nearly cover the vegetable, season with butter and a little pepper, and, if needed, a little salt; thicken very slightly with a very little flour rubbed smooth in a little cold milk and the mixture allowed to come to a boil. Serve hot.

An Inexpensive Pudding—Make a good biscuit dough, roll about three-fourths of an inch thick and spread on it any cooked fruit or grated apples, roll up, tie in a pudding cloth and steam an hour and a half. Serve with any nice sauce in slices.—M. N. Bits of dried fruits, cooked, that the family has grown tired of, can be used up in this way.

Some Statistics

The most recent census bureau report of prisoners and juvenile delinquents showed that in the country as a whole during the year, 34,753 persons were sentenced for drunkenness, 28,339 for vagrancy, and 17,264 for disorderly conduct, which constituted nearly fifty per cent of the total number of commitments. Drunkenness, vagrancy, and disorderly conduct are close-allied offenses, standing usually in the relation of cause and effect. These statistics are especially interesting at this juncture when the government of many of the states are passing laws to abolish the saloon, since the institution is largely responsible for the inebriety that lands its patrons in the jails.

Contributed Recipes

Corn Chowder—One quart can of corn, one quart sliced raw potatoes, a two-inch cube of fat salt pork, one onion sliced very thin, teaspoonful of pepper, tablespoonful of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter, two tablespoonfuls of flour, one pint of rich, sweet milk, six butter crackers. Heat the corn, pare and slice and scald the potatoes, fry the meat, and take it from the skillet; cook the onion in the fat, and then strain the fat into one quart of water in which the potatoes were scalded; then, into the skillet put a layer of potatoes, one of corn pulp, seasoning with salt and pepper, and simmer twenty minutes; blend the butter and flour together over the fire as for white sauce, pour into it the pint of hot milk, stirring all the time until it comes to a boil, then pour over the chowder. Put a layer of crackers in the tureen and turn the chowder over them; serve hot.

Date Meringue—This delicious dessert is quickly made in case unexpected company comes. Beat the whites of five eggs to a stiff froth, add three tablespoonfuls of sugar, and one pound of dates stoned and cut up fine. Bake fifteen minutes in a moderate oven and serve, as soon as cool, with thick, sweet cream, or a custard made with the yolks of the eggs.

Nice Sugar Cookies—Two cupfuls of granulated sugar, one cupful of lard and butter, equal parts, one cupful of sour milk, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one of soda, a teaspoonful of lemon juice; beat the mixture well in a bowl be-

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